

## AFAP - What Is It?



The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is input from the people of the Army to Army leadership. It's a process that lets soldiers and families say what's working, and what isn't - AND what they think will fix it. It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention, and it gives them the opportunity to quickly put plans into place to work toward resolving the issues.

- Gives commanders a gauge to validate concerns and measure satisfaction.
- Enhances Army's corporate image.
- Helps retain the best and brightest.
- Results in legislation, policies, programs and services that strengthen readiness and retention.
- Safeguards well-being.

## Some AFAP Success Stories

- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000.
- Basic Allowance for Housing increased by 11% -- part of a plan to eliminate out-of-pocket housing costs by 2005.
- A Military Savings Plan was authorized - anticipated implementation, Oct 01.
- AER provides grants in overseas locations to assist with financial aid for spouses to pursue undergrad, vo/tech, high school completion, and English as a Second Language studies.
- A DOD Reserve Component family member ID card was established.
- A vehicle can be stored at government expense when a soldier is reassigned to an area where shipment isn't authorized.
- Family Separation Allowance was increased from \$75 to \$100 per month.
- TLE was authorized for first-term enlisted personnel and is being pursued for first-term officers.
- Family Support Groups were institutionalized.
- Programs like Army Family Team Building (AFTB) and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) were born.
- Informational and interactive Web sites have been established to address retirement information and planning, employment opportunities and application, and enlisted soldier assignments.

## Facts About AFAP

- AFAP was the brainchild of Army spouses.
- Each AFAP success story originated as an idea that someone decided to pursue.
- The Army is the only branch of DOD that has such a program.
- Almost 500 issues have entered the AFAP in its 17-year history.
- Many AFAP improvements impact quality of life for all services.
- AFAP is year-round. Issues are continually being monitored and worked toward resolution at local levels, MACOMs, and HQDA.



## How Does AFAP Work?

- Installations and local levels hold AFAP forums. Active and Reserve soldiers, retirees, surviving spouses, DA civilians, family members, and tenant organizations identify issues they believe are important to maintain a good standard of living.
- Local commanders see to it that the issues are worked toward resolution. About 90% of AFAP issues are retained and worked at a local level, resulting in ongoing community improvements.
- Some issues are applicable beyond the local level. These are sent to MACOM AFAP conferences and to HQDA, where delegates from across the Army determine which will go into the AFAP. The issues that are selected for the AFAP are worked toward resolution by Army staff and DoD agencies.
- The General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC), reviews the progress of AFAP issues on a semi-annual basis. The AFAP GOSC is the final deciding authority on the status of all issues (determining if an issue is resolved, unattainable, or needs to remain active until the issue's stated objectives have been met).
- A board of key DOD and Army staff general officer and senior executive service representatives lend the teeth to the AFAP process. This board, the AFAP General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC), reviews the progress of AFAP issues on a semi-annual basis.

## AFAP and You



If you are part of the Army, you can be an AFAP participant.

- If you are a commander, you can support a strong AFAP program in your community, and you can draw on the real-time quality of life information AFAP provides.
- If you are a soldier, retiree, civilian, or family member - Active, Guard, or Reserve - you can be part of local, MACOM, and HQDA AFAP programs.
  - Be a delegate and share your good ideas.
  - Volunteer to help with a conference, assist with the program, or be a member of the local AFAP Advisory Committee.
  - Become familiar with current AFAP issues - tell people what's happening - get them energized to promote Army well-being through the AFAP process. (The Issue Update Book on the AFAP web site contains all of the issues).